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Thomas A. Mayes is the Legal Consultant to the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Student and Family Support Services, where he advises the Department on special education law and policy and provides information on special education law to Iowa's parents and educators. Before joining the Department in 2006, he was a staff attorney for the Iowa Court of Appeals, a staff attorney in Iowa Legal Aid's Waterloo office, and law clerk to Justice James H. Carter of the Supreme Court of Iowa. Thomas earned his bachelor's degree from Baylor University, with a major in American Studies; his law degree, with highest distinction, from The University of Iowa College of Law; and a master's degree in education leadership from Lehigh University. Thomas speaks and writes on education law, public interest law, and legal procedure. He is licensed to practice law in Iowa's courts, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and the United States Tax Court. He is a member of the National Council of State Education Attorneys and was appointed by Chief Justice Marsha Ternus to the state's Children's Justice State Council.